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THE U.S. CONGRESS AND WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN DISCUSSES TWO PIECES OF LEGISLATION ON WHICH THE INCOMING U.S. CONGRESS IS EXPECTED TO ACT EARLY NEXT YEAR.

VOICE: THE TWO BILLS REFLECT AMERICAN CONCERN WITH THE CONDITION OF WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS. BOTH DRAFT LAWS MAKE HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE AMERICAN PROGRAMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AID AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THIRD WORLD NATIONS. IN SO DOING THEY EXTEND AND DEEPEN CONGRESSIONAL PRACTICE IN RECENT YEARS OF CURTAILING AID TO NATIONS WHICH IN ITS VIEW VIOLATE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. THE LANGUAGE OF THE TWO PENDING BILLS FOLLOWS CLOSELY THAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

IN DRAFTING THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DREW ON A VARIETY OF SOURCES--THEIR OWN HEARINGS, REPORTS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO THE PRESIDENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS AROUND THE WORLD, AND FIRST-HAND INVESTIGATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES BY GROUPS OF CONGRESSMEN. ONE SUCH GROUP WENT TO EUROPE RECENTLY TO STUDY COMPLIANCE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT OF LAST YEAR'S HELSINKI CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY. THE CONGRESSIONAL GROUP WAS REFUSED ENTRY INTO MOST OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION. AN OBVIOUS RESULT OF THAT REFUSAL IS GROWING SUPPORT FOR THE PENDING LEGISLATION NOT ONLY AMONG CONGRESSMEN OF BOTH PARTIES BUT IN THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. AND PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS PARALLELING THE PURPOSE OF THE PENDING BILLS, SEEM TO FORESHADOW THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION'S BACKING.

THE AMERICAN CONCERN WITH WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS FOUND EXPRESSION IN THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUST LAST WEEK. AT A

COMMITTEE SESSION CONSIDERING THE ISSUE, U.S. CHIEF DELEGATE (WILLIAM) SCRANTON DEPLORED THE WORLD BODY'S RECORD IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD, CALLING IT "A DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT" AND "SADLY DEFICIENT". AND HE NOTED THAT THE 1948 UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN HONORED BY MANY OF ITS SIGNERS BY LIP SERVICE RATHER THAN CONCRETE ACTION. MISTER SCRANTON CALLED FOR STRENGTHENING AND SIMPLIFYING THE PRESENT CUMBERSOME HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE U.N.'S SAD RECORD IN THAT FIELD.

THE BILLS PENDING BEFORE THE INCOMING CONGRESS THUS GIVE SUBSTANCE TO AMBASSADOR SCRANTON'S WORDS. FOR, AS ONE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SPONSORS OF THE LEGISLATION POINTED OUT RECENTLY, THE BILLS ARE DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE EFFORTS OF THE U.N., THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO PROMOTE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE UNITED STATES HOPES THAT ITS RAISING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE TO A NEW PRIORITY IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY WILL ENCOURAGE OTHER NATIONS TO DO LIKEWISE.

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